

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 178

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 3608

E . O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS BL

SUB: POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: LA PAZ 3574

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH MNINTERIOR CASTRO WHEN THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES AS VOLUNTARY PRISONERS, FEMALE RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AGREED TO GRANT MINIZTERIOR 24 HOURS IN WHICH TO COMPLY WITH HIS PROMISE TO ACCELERATE JUDICIAL HANDLING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. AT CONCLUSION MEETING MININTERIOR ISSUED COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT PRISONERS WERE TREATED HUMANELY, AND THAT IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW THE CASES OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE BEING SUBMITTED TO THE JUDICIARY AND THAT THOSE WITH MINOR COMPLICITY WOULD BE RELEASED. PRESS REPORTS OF CASTRO' S MEETING WITH THE WOMEN CARRIED AN ADMISSION BYCASTRO THAT " FOR DISCIPLINARY PURPOSES", SOME PRISONERS WERE MILDLY BEATEN.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE WOMEN' S LETTER TO MININTERIOR, THE COMMISSION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE MADE ANOTHER PUBLIC APPEAL TO PRESIDENT BANZER FOR A NATIONWIDE AMNESTY AS THE FIRST STEP " FOR THE PACIFICATION AND CONSTITUTIONALIZACION OF THE COUNTRY." THE COMMISSION ALSO NOTED THAT IT BELIEVES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY UNCLASSIFIED

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400 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE COUNTRY. PRESS OF JUNE 14 PUBLISHED THE NAMES OF 74 POLITICAL PRISONERS WHOSE CASES WERE PRESENTED JUNE 13 TO VARIOUS JUDGES FOR PROCESSING; HOWEVER, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS' CASES.

3. COMMENT: THE WOMEN'S ACTION HAS OBVIOUSLY GIVEN THE GOB THE IMPULSE IT NEEDED TO BEGIN SERIOUS JUDICIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS' CASES. NEVERTHELESS, BOLIVIAN JUDICIARY PROCESSES GRIND SLOWLY, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS BY THE PRISONERS' RELATIVES WILL OCCURE PRIOR TO FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE CASES.

SIRACUSA

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